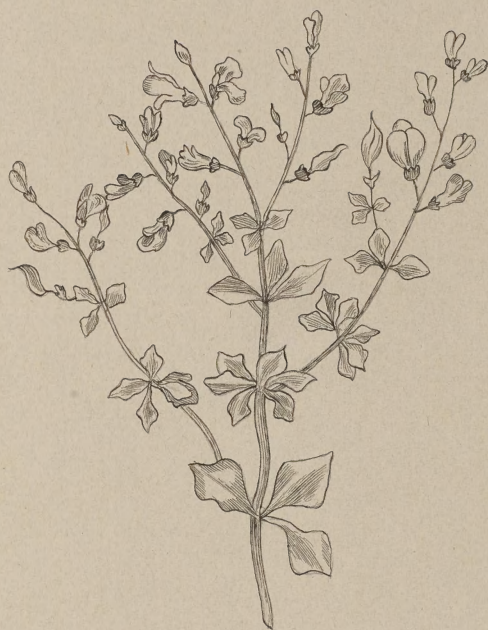


An Essay  
on  
Baptisia Tinctoria  
Respectfully Submitted  
to the  
Faculty  
of the  
Homœopathic Medical College  
of  
Pennsylvania

On the first day of February One Thousand  
and Eight Hundred and Fifty Seven.

By  
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of  
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Examined by Dr. Drake.



*BAPTISIA TINCTORIA.*

*Baptisia Tinctoria*, belongs to the class of exogenous plants of the natural order Leguminosae, and to the genus *Baptisia* or false Indigo. The Leguminous order, is vast being diffused through out the world, and is supposed by Humboldt to constitute a twelfth of all phenogamous plants.

To this order belongs the various kinds of pulse, and it is one of the most familiar to the world.

Their greater number are characterized by papilionaceous flowers and also by legumes with few

tanical anomalies that it is  
easy to foresee that its medicinal  
properties will exhibit little uni-  
formity, and still more excep-  
tions may be anticipated if  
we reflect that the chemical  
principle which is found most  
abundantly in every part of the  
plants of this order and to  
which we may attribute their  
principle medicinal properties  
is the extractive, and it is with-  
out doubt to the presence of this  
principle in considerable quantity  
that most plants of this order <sup>owe</sup> their  
purgative influence, and which  
many chemists believe is in-  
duced by acetate of potass,

which they are found almost  
universally to contain.

It appears that it is to the greater  
or less amount of the mixture of the  
extractive principle with the  
fecula contained in the seed that  
the different effects of the pulse  
may be attributed. — If the quan-  
tity be small the seed may serve  
for food for man and animals,  
examples of which we have in  
the French Bean, Scarlet Runners, Beans  
&c. — The Leguminous seeds  
present many anomilistic  
peculiarities more difficult  
to reduce to any invariable  
laws. Thus some are found to  
contain a large quantity of fixed

oils, Such as *Arachis Hypogaea* or  
Peanut, *Moringa Pterigosperma*,  
which produces the oil of Ben. —

There are some of which the smell  
and flavor are rather powerful  
as the Tonquin Bean. — There are  
others, which like the chick pea  
have rather a bitter taste, and ex-  
citing properties, and are on  
that account sometimes ad-  
ministered by old school practi-  
tioners for jaundice. — There  
are others again like the *Andira*  
*Ibaia*, which are so bitter as to  
be used in Java and Brazil as  
tonic alexiteric and vermifuge.  
— The principle blue colors  
are extracts from plants of this

order. — The barks of many of the Leguminosae are remarkable for their astringent qualities caused by the large quantity of tannin they contain. —

*Baptisia*, a genus of the above order, has for its botanical characteristics, half calyx, four five cleft, bilabiate five petals nearly equal in length, vexillum with reflexed sides, Stamens deciduous, Legume ventricose, many seeded, with trifoliate rarely simple leaves, and petals a yellow, blue, or white color often variegated. —

*Baptisia Tinctoria*, which is a specie of the genus *Baptisia* is known by the following. Root perennial large and woody very irregular, dark brown externally and yellowish within.

Stem two or three feet high, much branched. Branches and leaves glabrous. Leaflets roundish, obovate, stipules setaceous almost obsolete, flowers terminal, and yellow papilionaceous, each furnished with a lateral tooth.

Native from Canada to Carolina on dry hills, by fences or in woods. This plant was formally used as indigo by dyers.

The root and herbage have been

found to possess antiseptic and sub-  
astringent properties and has been used  
in Old School practice as Cathartic  
and emetic, and also in form of  
fomentations and Cataplasms  
in phagedenic and gangrenous  
ulcers, also for convulsions in  
Children, Chorea, Hysteria, and  
as a gargle for Canker in mouth.

It was by means of the latter use  
that attention was directed to it and  
and the "Law Similia" applied.

Dr. Thatcher a physician of some  
note and author (Thatcher's Dispensary)  
says of it, as a complete remedy for  
Canker in the mouth I have the full-  
est confidence in the efficacy of  
Baptisia Tinctoria. His direction was

To make a decoction of the root and use as a gargle. — I prepared a tincture according to class first, and from the bark of the root, obtained in August. — And this Tincture I proved upon my own person, and obtained the following results. —

One drop was taken daily, for three days, but no symptoms were of a nature so marked as to make it certain to the mind of the prover that they were produced by the drug. — The dose was then increased to three drops daily and the effects were so signal a nature as to admit of little uncertainty. —

One of the earliest results noticed was a most copious flow of sa-

lira, then followed sore throat, with  
scraping and burning. - Raw sensa-  
tion in pharynx with large amount  
of viscid mucus. - Constrictive feel-  
ing in the throat causing frequent  
efforts at deglutition. - Pricking  
sensation in upper part of pharynx. -

Dullness in head. Vertigo, when  
quickly turning round. and Sen-  
sation of weakness in the entire  
system especially in the lower limbs,  
weak knees, confused feeling in the  
head, surface of the body chilly and  
cold. - Hearing much to such extent as  
to require the utmost effort to be un-  
derstood. - Tickling in throat con-  
stantly provoking a cough, sore swell-  
ing on the left of the nape of the

neck, extending from the occiput to the shoulder, which continued for two days. Thick mucus discharge from the nose. Seems as if all objects were turning round, swimming sensation, very like what one experiences immediately preceding the operation of an emetic. — Long continued flow of saliva. — Frequent eructations of flatus, Nausea, Distension of Stomach, Feeling as though it would be a relief to vomit, Rumbling in Bowels, Fecal discharge dark and papaceous, and afterwards watery. — Tongue feels as though it had been scraped, same sensation extending to the fauces.

— The above were among the more noticeable results

obtained by proving of the drug.

What other symptoms might have been developed upon a more susceptible prover or by increase of dose remains to be brought out by those who are more willing to suffer the premonitory convulsions, and endure the intolerable sufferings incident to Emetics and Cathartics, and moreover whose ears are more charmed by music that beats toward death's door. —

*Baptisia Tinctoria*, has proved, useful in aphthæ of mouth, particularly those cases that have been of long standing. — Ulcerations in mouth that extend through the alimentary canal, with watery discharge from

bowels. — Aphthous diarrhoea, Derangements  
of Mucus Surfaces, Vomiting and purging.

Sore mouths of nursing infants  
and Consumptives. Water brash.

If necessary I might cite  
some marked cases of cure by  
Baptisia. mostly of a Chronic Char-  
acter, after other means had  
been used in vain. Its most marked  
use is shown in aphthous affections  
of mouth and the derangements usual-  
ly attendant thereon. —

It has not had the appli-  
cation in acute affections that  
its proving will warrant.

Some of the indications for its use  
are sallow complexion. Discol-  
ored aspect of countenance,

slow feeble movement of  
the whole body, with general  
lassitude of the whole system.

Chilly. Coldness of extremities  
with dry skin followed by cold  
clammy perspiration.